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Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 20683 121606Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------090557 121649Z /43
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20683

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY ABOUT U.S. POSITION ON POSSIBLE
- UNGA MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 225331

1. DURING ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRE-UNGA ISSUES (FULL REPORT TO FOLLOW) FONOFF HEAD OF IO AFFAIRS AMRE MOUSSA ZEROED IN ON OUR TALKING POINT COVERING VALIDITY OF ASWAN FORMULA. MOUSSA TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF LANGUAGE IN SECOND SENTENCE OF FOURTH TICK IN REFTEL. HE THEN REPEATED WHAT HE HAD SAID EARLIER--THAT EGYPT'S STANCE ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AT THE 33RD UNGA CLEARLY HAD TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME AT CAMP DAVID. GIVEN THAT CAVEAT, HE ASKED, WOULD THE U.S. BE WILLING TO SUPPORT A RESOLUTION WHICH INCORPORATED THE ASWAN LANGUAGE, VIZ., "THERE MUST BE A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS; IT MUST RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE."?

2. POLCOUNS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, ADDING THAT U.S. POSITION TOO WOULD BE SHAPED BY DEVELOPMENTS AT CAMP
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DAVID. HE ALSO REMINDED MOUSSA THAT SIMILAR EGYPTIAN EFFORTS HAD SOMETIMES COME TO GRIEF BECAUSE EGYPTIANS, OR THOSE MORE MILITANT THAN THEY, HAD INSISTED ON INCLUDING LANGUAGE THAT WENT BEYOND STATEMENTS OF U.S. POLICY. POLCOUNS ALSO CAUTIONED THAT UN RESOLUTIONS HAD DISTINCT POLITICAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS; WE DID NOT CONSIDER UNILATERAL POLICY STATEMENTS TO BE AUTOMATICALLY TRANS-

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FERRABLE TO UN RESOLUTIONS.

3. MOUSSA GRANTED OUR POINTS, BUT SAID WE WERE USING ASWAN FORMULATIONS IN A FORMAL DEMARCHE RELATED TO OUR MIDDLE EAST POSITION AT THE 33RD UNGA. ASSUMING, HE SAID, THAT EGYPT DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION AT THIS ASSEMBLY THAT WAS STRICTLY LIMITED TO THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN OUR DEMARCHE, WOULD THE U.S. SUPPORT IT? THAT, HE SAID, WAS SURELY NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK.
4. WE RECOGNIZE IT MAY BE TOO SOON TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. HOWEVER, A RESPONSIVE REPLY WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP IN PERSUADING EGYPT TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH US ON UN MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. MATTHEWS

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